

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 34, wherein said region comprises at least two combined reception and connection regions each for receiving a corresponding modular treatment station.
3. (canceled)
4. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 2, further comprising a disposal system, wherein said modular treatment station connects to said disposal system.
5. (canceled)
6. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein said combined reception and connection regions comprise a bar for guiding reception and insertion of said modular treatment station, and a docking point for connection of said disposal system to said modular treatment station.
7. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 6, wherein said modular treatment station has connector stems and electrical contacts that correspond to corresponding openings and contacts of said docking point.
8. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein a connection that is electrically conductive is created between said modular treatment station and said apparatus when said modular treatment station is in a docked state.
9. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein a connection that is thermally conductive is created between said modular treatment station and said apparatus when said modular treatment station is in a docked state.
10. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein a connection that carries a flow medium is created between said modular treatment station and said apparatus when said modular treatment station is in a docked state.
11. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 34, wherein said region for receiving said modular treatment station is configured alongside said array of processing stations.
12. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 34, wherein said region for receiving said modular treatment station is configured at least slightly below said array of processing stations.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 34, wherein an access opening is provided in said housing for insertion and removal of said modular treatment station.
14. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 13, further comprising a cover for closing said access opening.
15. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 13, wherein said housing includes a back wall and said access opening is provided through said back wall.
16. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 15, wherein said access opening is provided through a lateral portion of said back wall.
17. (canceled)
18. (currently amended) The apparatus as defined in ~~Claim 17~~ Claim 34, wherein said modular treatment station comprises a heating station.
19. (currently amended) The apparatus as defined in ~~Claim 17~~ Claim 34, wherein said modular treatment station comprises a rinsing device.
20. (currently amended) The apparatus as defined in ~~Claim 17~~ Claim 34, wherein said modular treatment station comprises a turbulence-inducing device for said liquid used for treatment.
21. (currently amended) The apparatus as defined in ~~Claim 17~~ Claim 34, wherein said modular treatment station comprises a fan.
22. (canceled)
23. (currently amended) The apparatus as defined in ~~Claim 22~~ Claim 34, wherein said ~~extraction system~~ modular treatment station includes an extraction chamber adjacent said container, said extraction chamber having a fan.
24. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 23, wherein said apparatus has a central extraction system for extracting vapors, and said extraction chamber of said modular treatment station is in flow communication with said central extraction system.
25. (currently amended) The apparatus as defined in ~~Claim 17~~ Claim 34, wherein said modular treatment station comprises a control system for ~~various functional units~~ said one or more chosen devices.
26. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 25, wherein said control system is a closed-loop control system.
27. (currently amended) The apparatus as defined in ~~Claim 17~~ Claim 34, wherein said ~~chamber~~ container also receives said object carriers.

28. (currently amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim 27, wherein said ~~chamber~~ container includes ~~holding means to receive and secure said object carriers~~ notches for positioning said object carriers.
29. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 34, wherein said transport device serves to deliver said specimens, or said object carriers carrying said specimens, into said modular treatment stations.
30. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 29, wherein said transport device is embodied as a robot arm.
31. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 30, wherein said robot arm has two partial arms.
32. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 30, wherein said robot arm is rotatable about a vertical shaft.
33. (previously presented) The apparatus as defined in Claim 30, wherein said robot arm is adjustable in height.
34. (currently amended) An apparatus for treating cytological or histological specimens comprising:
 - a housing;
 - an array of processing stations within said housing;
 - a transport device for delivering the specimens, or object carriers carrying the specimens, into and out of said processing stations;
 - a region within said housing proximate to said array of processing stations, said region being reachable by said transport device; and
 - a modular treatment station received in said region, said modular treatment station being removable as a unit from said housing and having ~~at least one permanently defined function, other than containment of fluid, associated therewith~~ a container for receiving liquid used for treatment of said specimens and further having one or more devices chosen from a group consisting of: a heating station for heating liquid in said container, a rinsing device for rinsing specimens, a turbulence-inducing device for inducing turbulence in liquid in said container, and a fan for extracting vapors from said modular treatment station.